

The Groundplane

SBARA—The South Bay Amateur Radio Association KU6S Newsletter

**September, 2012
Volume 13, Issue 9**



SOUTH BAY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

ARRL Member Club Since 1974



President's Message

It is Saturday, September 1st, a few minutes past five pm, I'm at a particular corner of Newark and I can spare some time before they get me. They're after me, you know. I'm going to make it hard for them, though, I won't be an easy catch for the hunters. I estimate I'll have an hour or so, maybe less, before they're all over me.



Let's use this time to talk business

Thanks everybody who participated in this years Zucchini Festival communication support. I spent a few shifts there myself and got the impression that it was more relaxed than the previous years. This is because we had (the first time in years!) more volunteers than the minimum required, and because of some relaxed rules for leaving vehicles at the evenings. SBARA can look forward to another big check from the festival organization. As a Thank You we will raffle off a GoPro Hero camera at the next membership meeting. For each shift you worked, one ticket will be entered. The GoPro is an amazing piece of technology, it's a 5 megapixel still video or time-lapse capable full HD video camera in an astonishingly small package. I'm sure you would love to have it!

Election time is coming soon. Well, yes, these elections, too. We have started nominations for populating the SBARA board of directors. As you all know by now, unfortunately I won't be available as president next year (I'd really love to!). So we will have to shuffle our cards a bit. The board has started nominations. If you would like to suggest anyone or would like to volunteer on a board position, please let the nomination committee know. Please contact Al Rendon or me. More about that during the next membership meeting which will be on Friday Sep 14th.

Our Slow CW Net we're running for a few years now on 144.230 MHz has evolved in the past few weeks. We established stable contact with Dan N6WN in Medford/OR a couple of times now. Of course not on 2m, we had to go on 40m instead. Currently we're doing this every Sunday at 7:30pm on or around 7.057 MHz. Join in!

Dear Elmer

I recently wrote to you requesting a private consultation regarding an Antenna Configuration. You replied that your fee is \$50 for two questions. Don't you think that is excessive?

Signed, HAM Needing Help

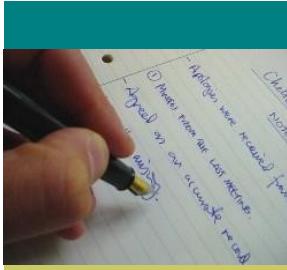
Dear HAM Needing Help,
Yes. Now what is your second question?

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Special Points of Interest

- BeagleBoard—Stptember Meeting
- Zuchinni Festival Participant Drawing
- CERT Training
- SBARA Voice and CW Nets



What is a Beagle-Board?



The BeagleBoard is a low-power open source hardware single-board computer produced by Texas Instruments in association with Digi-Key. The BeagleBoard was also designed with open source software development in mind, and as a way of demonstrating the Texas Instrument's OMAP3530 system-on-a-chip.

Presidents Message (cont'd. from Page 1)

As mentioned in the August issue of the Groundplane, we're ordering new business cards. Here it is:



Meetings: every 2nd Friday of the month @ 7:30 p.m.
Location: Hurricane Electric, 760 Mission Ct., Fremont

The new card was designed using the artwork for the new banner we received in April this year.

Back to the place where I'm hiding. It's actually quite beautiful here, at the edge of a National Wildlife Refuge. It's quiet, apart from the birds and some distant traffic I can hear. - Ah, here comes the first hunter. He has a weird weapon in his hands, and some strange noise comes from him. I can make out some Morse code he receives from somewhere:

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Oh my god, is this coming from me?! The hunter zeroes in, but he doesn't see me. I'm well disguised, hidden under some bushes. He passes by, goes farther, then returns. Oh no, he's suspecting something. No, no... he's on me, he got me...

[More about the September 2012 Fremont Transmitter Hunt in an extra article in this issue.](#)

See you at the membership meeting!

Bernhard AF6YN

www.ijerph.org

Speaker for the September SBARA membership meeting

Our member and past president Steve Wilson KA6S will present the Beagleboard, a nice little Linux computer board. The Beagleboard and its little brother, the Beaglebone, are using an embedded Linux operating system. There are a lot of extension boards available, and source development on them is open. That's a good recipe for successful homebrew projects.

See you at the meeting,
Bernhard AE6YN

ARRL National Convention at Pacificon

PACIFICON 2012 returns to the **Santa Clara Marriott Hotel**. The Pacific Division convention has the honor of also serving as the ARRL National Convention. Plans are well under way to prepare for the biggest and best Pacificon ever!

Volunteer Opportunities

We appreciate the support of the many dedicated volunteers, who have contributed their time and energy to creating the greatest Amateur Radio events on the West Coast. Come help us in producing this year's ARRL National Convention at Pacificon.

Most volunteer activity occurs on site immediately preceding, during, or following the convention and a minimum of a two hour commitment is preferred. Brief descriptions of volunteer duties with indications of any helpful experience or skills are shown. No one is expected to work the entire time! Suggested shift lengths are shown for each task.

Please let us know if you can work multiple shifts. All Volunteers will receive a Pacificon 2012 t-shirt. Volunteers who work a total of 8 hours will have their entry fee refunded (\$23).

You can volunteer at Convention website by using this URL— <http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?>



Links for New Hams

Amateur Radio Acronyms - [PDF](#)

Ten Tips to Make You a Better Communicator - [PDF](#)

Understanding Antennas for the Non-Technical Ham - [PDF](#)

Review of simple HF operating procedures - [PDF](#)

Review of simple VHF/UHF Repeater operating procedures - [PDF](#)

The Considerate Operator's Frequency Guide - [PDF](#)

Amateur Radio Frequency Allocation Chart (color) - [PDF](#)

Some HF Rigs to consider - [PDF](#)

Operator's Guide for New Amateurs - [PDF](#)

ARRL Amateur Radio Education & Technology Program Unit 6 - Repeater and Remote Operation - [PDF](#)

Some HF Antennas to Consider - [PDF](#)

Understanding, Finding, & Eliminating Ground Loops in Audio & Video Systems - [PDF](#)

Understanding How Ferrites Can Prevent and Eliminate RF Interference to Audio Systems - [PDF](#)

**David Sumner,
K1ZZ -
Pacificon
Banquet
Speaker**

David Sumner, K1ZZ, is Chief Executive Officer and Secretary of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), the national association for Amateur Radio. He is responsible to the ARRL Board of Directors for managing the affairs of the League including its headquarters staff and official journal, QST



Fremont "T" Hunt September Results



Transmitter hunting (also known as **T-hunting**, **fox hunting**, **bunny hunting**, and **bunny chasing**), is an activity wherein participants use [radio direction finding](#) techniques to locate one or more radio [transmitters](#) hidden within a designated search area. This activity is most popular among [amateur radio](#) enthusiasts, and one organized sport variation is known as [amateur radio direction finding](#).organized sport variation is known as [amateur radio direction finding](#).

Fremont Transmitter Hunt September 2012 Results

The fox hunt for September this year was a relatively easy one, however the fox itself was not easily visible this time. The hunters had to do some extra work to find it. Bearing from starting point at Zapotec Dr. / Joshua Dr. was 288 degrees true. The fox transmitted on 146.565 MHz.

Bernhard AE6YN was the fox this time. He used a fox box provided by Rich KN6FW (thanks!).

The fox was hidden in Newark, close to Rita's KI6SSQ and Dan's N6WN old home, about where the residential area ends at Thornton Avenue (where Cedar Blvd meets Thornton on the west side of Newark). There's a wildlife refuge with a fence around it. That fence provided nice reflections which apparently drove some of the hunters off initially, but all showed up at the end. The first hunter showing up was Rich KN6FW within a little more than 50 minutes after the fox was switched on. All parties eventually made it, the last one was Gary KJ6MAG. One of the hunters, Bill AF6AE, came, but couldn't go searching the fox locally due to problems with his knees. He was within 10 feet of it.

The fox was hidden in a brown paper bag, with some bushes and straw around it. It employed a small 2m handheld vertical antenna, very thin and painted beige, making it look like a straw. With no exception, all hunters didn't find it at first and walked past it, although it almost was in plain view on the open ground.

Here is the list of hunting parties:

Rich KN6FW	11.4	First place
Don KC6IPO Pete N6YIF Linda	12.1	First place, 10% rule
Don AI6RE Linda KE6BEO	12.2	First place, 10% rule
Rolf N6NFI Pamela KG6EDX	12.5	First place, 10% rule
Dan KJ6CPX Robin KI6YTA	14.1	Second place
Bill AF6AE	~ 14	Arrived on site, but DNF due to knee problems
Gary KJ6AMG	20.0	OPEC award

SBARA Calendar

- Sun Sep 2, 7:30 pm Slow CW net, 144.230 MHz
- Mon Sep 3, 7:30 pm SBARA net, 147.015 MHz, positive offset, 103.5Hz sub tone
- Tue Sep 4, 7:30 pm ARES net, 147.015 MHz, positive offset, 103.5Hz sub tone
- Thu Sep 6, 7:30 pm Slow CW net, 144.230 MHz
- Sat Sep 8, 9:00 am – 11:30 am Tri-City VE session, Hurricane Electric, 48233 Warm Springs Blvd**
- Sun Sep 9, 7:30 pm Slow CW net, 7.057 MHz +/- 3 kHz
- Mon Sep 10, 7:30 pm SBARA net, 147.015 MHz, positive offset, 103.5Hz sub tone
- Tue Sep 11, 7:30 pm ARES net, 147.015 MHz, positive offset, 103.5Hz sub tone
- Fri Sep 14, 6 pm pre SBARA Meeting dinner at Zorbas, 46505 Mission Blvd.**
- Fri Sep 14, 7:30 pm SBARA membership meeting, Hurricane Electric, 760 Mission Ct**
- Sun Sep 16, 7:30 pm Slow CW net, 7.057 MHz +/- 3 kHz
- Mon Sep 17, 7:30 pm SBARA net, 147.015 MHz, positive offset, 103.5Hz sub tone
- Tue Sep 18, 7:30 pm ARES net, 147.015 MHz, positive offset, 103.5Hz sub tone
- Thu Sep 20, 7:30 pm Fremont ARES meeting, 3300 Capitol, Building A**
- Thu Aug 20, 7:30 pm Slow CW net, 144.230 MHz
- Sun Sep 23, 7:30 pm Slow CW net, 7.057 MHz +/- 3 kHz
- Mon Sep 24, 7:00 pm SBARA board meeting, Mission Coffee, 151 Washington Blvd**
- Mon Sep 24, 7:30 pm SBARA net, 147.015 MHz, positive offset, 103.5Hz sub tone
- Tue Sep 25, 7:30 pm ARES net, 147.015 MHz, positive offset, 103.5Hz sub tone
- Thu Sep 27, 7:30 pm Slow CW net, 144.230 MHz
- Sun Sep 30, 7:30 pm Slow CW net, 7.057 MHz +/- 3 kHz
- Mon Oct 1, 7:30 pm SBARA net, 147.015 MHz, positive offset, 103.5Hz sub tone
- Tue Oct 2, 7:30 pm ARES net, 147.015 MHz, positive offset, 103.5Hz sub tone
- Thu Oct 4, 7:30 pm Slow CW net, 144.230 MHz
- Sun Oct 7, 7:30 pm Slow CW net, 7.057 MHz +/- 3 kHz
- Mon Oct 8, 7:30 pm SBARA net, 147.015 MHz, positive offset, 103.5Hz sub tone
- Tue Oct 9, 6:30 pm – 9:00 pm Tri-City VE session, Hurricane Electric, 48233 Warm Springs Blvd**
- Tue Oct 9, 7:30 pm ARES net, 147.015 MHz, positive offset, 103.5Hz sub tone
- Thu Oct 11, 7:30 pm Slow CW net, 144.230 MHz
- Fri Oct 12, 6 pm pre SBARA Meeting dinner at Zorbas, 46505 Mission Blvd.**
- Fri Oct 12, 7:30 pm SBARA membership meeting, Hurricane Electric, 760 Mission Ct**

It is official!

The ARRL and the Boy Scouts of America have signed a Memorandum of Understanding designating the ARRL as a key resource for K2BSA and Radio Merit Badge Training at the National Scout Jamboree. Page 61 and 62 of September QST are devoted to explaining the long relationship between ham radio and the Boy Scouts of America and new opportunities for the ARRL and Scouting to work together.

ARRL East Bay Section Web Page

The new URL is <http://www.arrleastbaysection.org/>

Don't forget to update this information in your bookmarks, club newsletters and on your club web pages.

Get Involved with SBARA...

...come to a monthly meeting

Our regular meetings take place the second Friday of the month at Hurricane Electric. Pre-Meeting social dinner begins at 6pm. Then at 7pm our meeting social begins with the monthly meeting starting at 7:30pm. Everyone is welcome to attend, regardless of whether you are a member. Bring a friend! Or if you're thinking about becoming a ham, come and ...join a fox hunt.

On the Saturday of the month (around 7pm) organizes a good old fashioned fox hunt. The starting point is in Fremont, Ca.

...take a VE test or Upgrade.

VE testing is scheduled throughout the year on the second Saturday of the month on even months and on the second Tuesday of the month. Details are in this issue of the Ground-plane.



SBARA VE Testing Schedule

Exams will be administered at Hurricane Electric, 48233 Warm Springs Blvd., Fremont. Contact: Greg Miller, wy6p at arrl dot net for info. \$15 fee, bring a photo ID. Walk-ins allowed.

Tri-City VE Session Dates 2012

Sat Sep 8, 2012, 9:00 am - 11:30 am
Tue Oct 9, 2012, 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm
Sat Nov 10, 2012, 9:00 am - 11:30 am
Tue Dec 11, 2012, 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm

Tri-City VE Session Dates 2013

Sat Jan 12, 2013, 9:00 am – 11:30 am
Tue Feb 12, 2013, 6:30 pm – 9:00 pm
Sat Mar 9, 2013, 9:00 am – 11:30 am
Tue Apr 9, 2013, 6:30 pm – 9:00 pm
Sat May 11, 2013, 9:00 am – 11:30 am
Tue Jun 11, 2013, 6:30 pm – 9:00 pm
Sat Jul 13, 2013, 9:00 am – 11:30 am
Tue Aug 13, 2013, 6:30 pm – 9:00 pm
Sat Sep 14, 2013, 9:00 am – 11:30 am
Tue Oct 8, 2013, 6:30 pm – 9:00 pm
Sat Nov 9, 2013, 9:00 am – 11:30 am
Tue Dec 10, 2013, 6:30 pm – 9:00 pm



Are you looking for your favorite Repeater? Here is information you can use!

WA6PWW— 147.015 + 600Khz, PL 103.5

K6AIR—441.525 +5Mhz, PL 123.0

WA6PWW—223.900—500Khz, PL 107.2

ARES Net Meeting—Tuesday Evenings @ 7:30pm on 147.015+600Khz, PL 103.5

WA6PWW—442.600 +5Mhz,
PL107.2

K6AIR—146.940—600Khz, PL 123.0

Dear Fremont CERTs

Reminder = Here is the updated 2012 Fremont Fire Department PEP & CERT Training & Events Calendar.

Pre-Registration is required. To Register for a specific date, call 510-494-4244 or Email FirePubEd@fremont.gov

Updates to this schedule will be posted to the web at

www.FremontCERT.org

and to the Fremont Fire Dept. Public Education Information Line at 510-494-4243

Each month the CERT Desk will send out an email reminder of these dates.

For CERT Activation Status in a real event, check the recording on the CERT Hotline at 510-494-4245

Special Events

September 22, 2012, Saturday, Free First Aid / CPR / AED Training, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM, Pre-Registration Required. Location of this First Aid / CPR / AED class will be in the Small Classroom, Fire Administration Building, 3300 Capitol Avenue, Central Fremont.

Saturday, September 29, 2012, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. = Amatuer Radio License Testing, Ham Radio Study Session followed by FCC License Exam, Location = Large and Small Training Classrooms, Fire Admin. Bldg. A, 3300 Capitol Avenue, Fremont, CA. \$ 30 fee at the door. To Register go to www.baears.com . Questions call Ross Peterson wb6zbu@arrl.net or 650-349-5349.

2012 Training Schedule

Class Times: 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Class Location: Fremont Fire Training Tower Facility Classroom, 7200 Stevenson Blvd., Fremont, West of Hwy 880

Class Dates:

PEP = Personal Emergency Preparedness Class

September 11, 2012, Tuesday

November 8, 2012, Thursday

CERT Training Session

6 Consecutive Thursday Nights, 2012 August 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 and September 6

For all new students, PEP Class is now a requirement before taking CERT Training.

Already trained veteran Fremont CERTs are welcome to attend any CERT Training classes to refresh their skills; they do not have to take PEP first.



The CERT Program is an organization devoted to ensuring that appropriate technology and systems management practices are used to resist attacks on networked systems and to limit damage and ensure continuity of critical services in spite of successful attacks, accidents, or failures.



Colorado Hams set Example of Emergency Service

The cover of the September issue of QST is dedicated to the raging forest fires that have devastated more than 160,000 acres in Colorado. Page 73 tells the story of how Hams provided communications support to the state and local service agencies, setting up eight hour shifts around the clock. Also called into use were Amateur Television Crews to video the area.

CERT Continuing Education Classes

September 19, 2012, Wednesday, CERT Paper Work

September 22, 2012, Saturday, Free First Aid / CPR / AED Training, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM, Pre-Registration Required

Location of this First Aid / CPR / AED class will be in the Small Classroom, Fire Administration Building, 3300 Capitol Avenue, Central Fremont.

October 17, 2012, Wednesday, Topic To Be Determined

October 20, 2012, Saturday, CERT City Wide Earthquake Drill

November 14, 2012, Wednesday, Topic To Be Determined

CERTs with Ham Radio Licenses are encouraged to participate in our local Amateur Radio Groups:

Fremont ARES, Amateur Radio Emergency Services, www.FremontARES.org, meets the 3rd Thursday of each month at 1930 HRS

Fremont ARES meeting location = Fremont Fire Dept. Admin. Bldg.,(City Offices), 3300 Capitol Avenue, Bldg. A, Fremont, CA 94538

SBARA, South Bay Amateur Radio Association, www.sbara.org, meets the 2nd Friday of each month at 1930 HRS

SBARA meeting location = Hurricane Electric Bldg. , 760 Mission Court, Fremont, CA 94539

Please email FirePubEd@fremont.gov any changes to your email address or postal address so we can keep in touch with you.

Regards,

Fremont Fire Dept. CERT Desk Volunteer Staff

Fremont Fire Department Public Education

Emails and phone calls are returned by volunteers.

FirePubEd@fremont.gov, 510-494-4244.

End.

Monday SBARA Net

The SBARA net is taking place....

Every Monday night at 7:30 pm on the WA6PWW (currently N6IMS) repeater, 147.015 MHz, positive offset, PL (if enabled) 103.5 Hz.

Topics are club related things, projects you're working on and so on. It's a chat net.

We need net control operators. If you'd like to be net control, let us know during the next net.

—... .--

Bernhard AE6YN

The South Bay Amateur Radio Association., is a general interest amateur radio club serving the Fremont Tri-City area. Records indicate the club has been in existence since at least 1974, and has functioned continuously ever since. We are an ARRL Special Service Club, an California not-for-profit corporation, and a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization as specified in IRS Statutes.

We sponsor training classes for new hams, license examination sessions, and participate in various public service events. If you have a specialized amateur radio interest, chances are you can share it with one or more of our club members. The South Bay Amateur Radio Association meets on the 2nd Friday of every month at Hurricane Electric in Fremont. The meeting begins at 7:30 PM and includes social time, a business portion and a program of interest.

All persons interested in amateur radio are invited to attend. Families are welcome.

We hope to see you there!



SBARA Weekly Nets—Voice and CW Action!!

The Slow CW Net is Taking Place....

Every Thursday and Sunday night at 7:30 pm, Thursday on 144.230 MHz, Sunday on 7.057MHz +/- 3 kHz

You need an "allmode" (i.e. not just an FM) radio in order to follow.

The net has now its own e-mail address. Please contact us here:

"SF Bay CW Enthusiasts" <sf-bay-cw-enthusiasts at google-groups.com>

—... .--

Bernhard AE6YN

South Bay Amateur Radio Association - SBARA
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SBARA - Groundplane

The Groundplane is published monthly by the South Bay Amateur Radio Association. Articles and letters are always welcome. The normal deadline for material is the 20th day of each month for the next month's news-letter. Articles can be sent by email to hamradio at Comcast dot net or via U.S. Mail. Contact the Editor for details and submission guidelines.



Upcoming SBARA Events

September Action Packed Meeting

September 14th, 2012 at 7:30pm Hurricane Electric, Fremont

Amateur License Exams

ARRL VEC – September 8th @ 11:30 am at Hurricane Electric – 48233 Warm Springs Blvd. Fremont. Contact: Bernhard, ae6yn at arrl dot net for info. \$15 fee.

**Additional information is described at Website,
www.sbara.org**

Select License Exams from the Navigation URL.

South Bay Amateur Radio Association — SBARA

The Ground Plane — KU6S

<http://www.sbara.org>

P.O. Box 8401

Fremont, Ca.

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE